

Message

From: Lyons, Stephanie [Stephanie.Lyons@stb.gov]
Sent: 3/14/2023 1:58:11 PM
To: eburt.hd [eburt.hd@gmail.com]; Nierenberg, Kara (she/her/hers) [Nierenberg.Kara@epa.gov]
CC: Audet, Matthew [Audet.Matthew@epa.gov]; Cianciarulo, Robert [Cianciarulo.Bob@epa.gov]; Kyla Bennett [KBennett@peer.org]
Subject: RE: Grafton Upton Rail Road - Hopedale, MA

Thank you, Kara and Ed. I will review this information and be back in touch shortly to discuss how our office of Rail Customer and Public Assistance might be able to help.

Thank you again for reaching out to us.

Stephanie

Stephanie Lyons
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From: Ed Burt <eburt.hd@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 13, 2023 5:34 PM
To: Nierenberg, Kara (she/her/hers) <Nierenberg.Kara@epa.gov>
Cc: Lyons, Stephanie <Stephanie.Lyons@stb.gov>; Audet, Matthew <Audet.Matthew@epa.gov>; Cianciarulo, Robert <Cianciarulo.Bob@epa.gov>; Kyla Bennett <KBennett@peer.org>
Subject: Re: Grafton Upton Rail Road - Hopedale, MA

Thank you Kara,

Stephanie,

We would very much like the opportunity to address the public water supply concerns related to Grafton Upton Railroad's (GURR) Hopedale railyard.

For background, first please note that GURR's Hopedale railyard resides within Hopedale's Zone II Water Protected district. A designation that was in place long before GURR took over the property.

After decades of inactivity, GURR has completely transformed the property into an operating railyard over the past few years. FlyAsh silos were constructed in 2018, followed by significant site work in August of 2022, which was funded in part by a MA State IRAP grant.

All of which was executed without approved plans, oversight, or storm water management on a site that already had known contamination issues. The lack of soil or ground water testing and absence of the normal environmental oversight has been an ongoing concern.

We had hoped that the usage of State funds would have required some ground water protective measures to reflect the Zone II reality. But to date, that has not been the case.

In addition to the site concerns, materials very dangerous to the ground water are being transported, and stored, at the railyard. The fly ash transports started in 2019 continue this day without systematic emergency procedures, ground water protective measures or any oversight.

Contaminated soil transports (BASF and Nuclear Metals superfund sites) started in the fall of 2022. Like the fly-ash, without systematic emergency procedures, ground water protective measures or any oversight.

In light of recent train derailments around the country, transportation of the NMI contaminated soils seems to be an easy fix. Instead of trucking the materials to the Hopedale railyard, which is in our Zone II, truck the material **directly** to the final landfill or to a closer, more appropriate (non-Zone II) railyard. This would eliminate that risk to the Hopedale public water supply. The transportation plan for this contaminated waste appears to go out of its way to include Hopedale.

I'd be happy to provide any additional information or simply discuss the overall issues. Just let me know how you would like to proceed.

Thank you,

Ed Burt

Hopedale Water & Sewer Commission

On Mon, Mar 13, 2023 at 11:30 AM Nierenberg, Kara (she/her/hers) <Nierenberg.Kara@epa.gov> wrote:

Hi Stephanie –

Thank you for speaking with me this morning. I am reaching out as the remedial project manager for the Nuclear Metals Superfund Site in Concord, Massachusetts. As part of the site cleanup, soil is being shipped off-site for disposal. This soil is transported via truck to the Grafton-Upton Rail Road facility located on Medon Street in Hopedale, Massachusetts where it is transloaded into a gondola and then ultimately transported via rail to Michigan for disposal. The Town of Hopedale Water and Sewer Commissioner, Ed Burt (copied on this email), has reached out to us a number of times over concerns with the GURR facility and has raised a lot of concerns over the shipments, operations at the GURR facility, and the condition of the facility. I am hoping you may be able to work with the Town and assist them with their concerns. Please let me know if you have any questions.

Best,



Kara Kelly Nierenberg, PE

Remedial Project Manager

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